have agreed, in principle, to the opening of other border points as may be notified by mutual agreement after the smooth functioning of the Moreh-Tamu border point comes into effect There are no existing plans to use the stilwell road most of which runs within Myanmar.

At present, there is no proposal pending to improve stilwell road to National Express Highway status.

(c) to (e) The Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol between India and Bangladesh provides the framework for transportation of cargo through eight specified inland water routes including the Brahmaputra. Recently, a Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh was renewed. Both sides have agreed to set up a Joint Group of Experts to consider, inter alia, the modalities for the movement of goods from one point in India to another through Bangladesh and modalities for border trade between India and Bangladesh.

**Development of Industries in North-Eastern Region**

560. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan for development of industries in the North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the proposals of each State and by when these will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a and (b) Government, has announced a new industrial policy for the North-Eastern Region on 24th December 1997 to promote industrialisation of the region. The various provisions of the policy have been implemented through issuance of necessary notifications. These measures are expected to attract industries into the region. There are no proposals of the States with Ministry of Commerce and Industry.